

1. The Early Years of the War
2. The War Expands
3. The Path to Victory
4. The Legacy of the War

Battle of Lexington



1775

Revolution begins at **Lexington** and **Concord**.

# The American Revolution

1775–1783



## ESSENTIAL QUESTION

How was it possible that American Patriots gained their independence from the powerful British Empire?

## CONNECT Geography & History

How might the geography of the United States have affected the course of the war?

Think about:

- ① how **Saratoga** lies in the Hudson River valley, a major gap through the Appalachian Mountains
- ② how **Yorktown** stands on the Chesapeake Bay, a wide body of water that allowed ships access to ports and plantations
- ③ the distance between Britain and America, roughly 3,400 miles

Travel time:  
4 weeks to 4 months



**1777** The American victory at **Saratoga** convinces foreign powers that America can win.

**Effect** France enters the war on the American side.

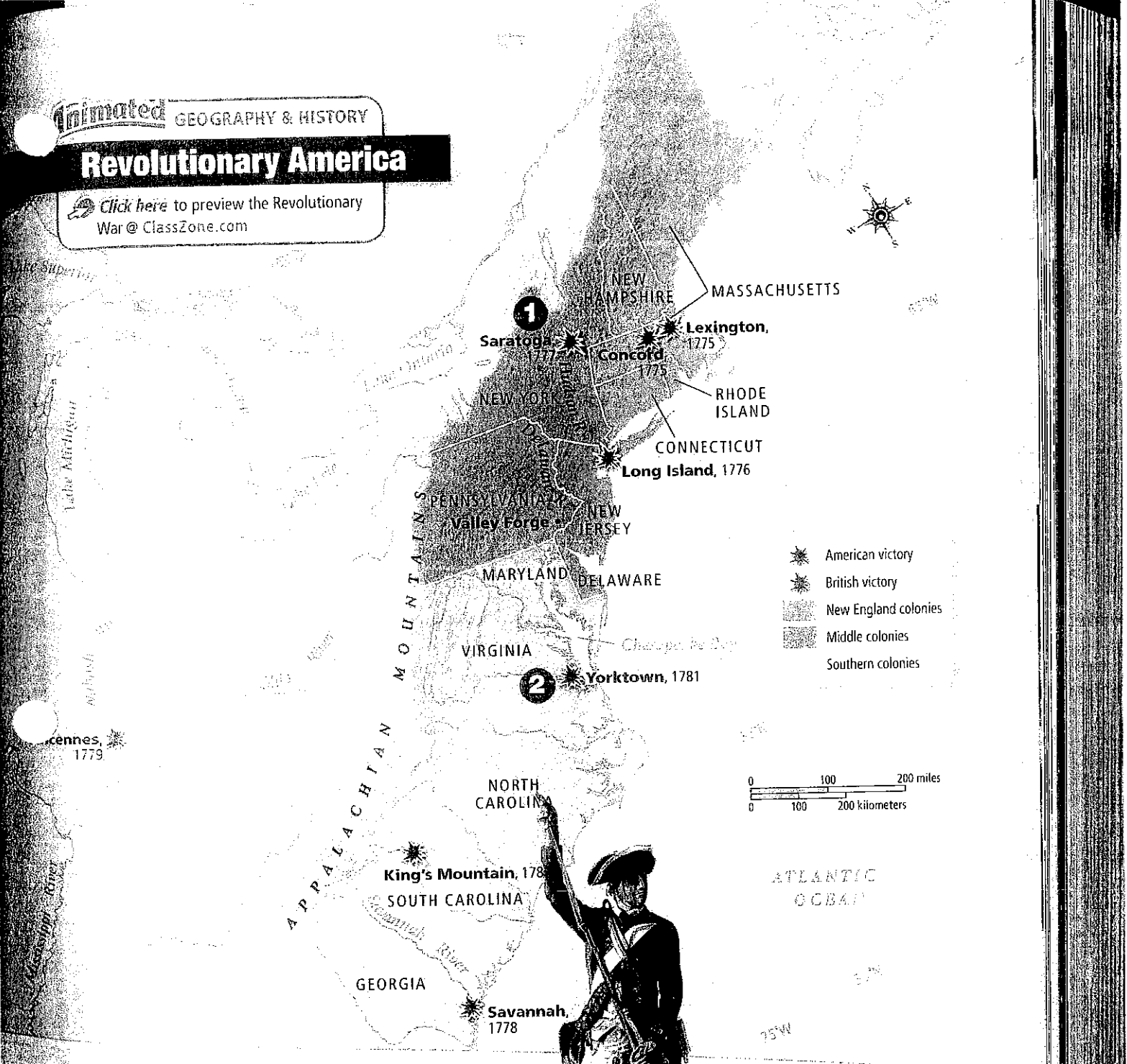
**1776** Declaration of Independence

After their victory at the **Battle of Long Island**, the British make New York their base of operations.

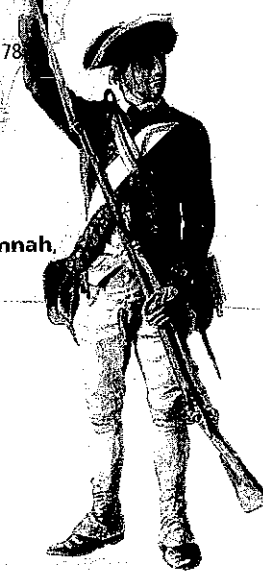
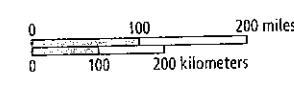
**1778** The British capture **Savannah**, Georgia—their first major victory in their new Southern campaign.

# Revolutionary America

Click here to preview the Revolutionary War @ ClassZone.com



- American victory
- British victory
- New England colonies
- Middle colonies
- Southern colonies



**1780** The Americans defeat the British at **King's Mountain**, South Carolina.

**Effect** This complicates British plans in the South.



Revolutionary-era Drum  
Drums were used to give  
instructions to the troops.

**Continental Soldier**  
Most soldiers in the Continental Army supplied their own weapons.

**1783**

The Treaty of Paris ends the war.

**1781** After the American victory at **Yorktown**, British lose their will to continue the war.

**Effect** British negotiate for peace.

# The Early Years of the War

## One American's Story

When John Singleton Copley painted this portrait of his own Loyalist family, the Copleys had only recently escaped the violence of the Revolution. Copley's father-in-law (shown seated) lost his investments during the Boston Tea Party. Copley's wife (in the blue dress) lost her infant son during the siege of Boston. In the background stands Copley himself—an American who became one of the greatest painters in the British Empire.

Copley was born and raised in Boston. Before the war, he left Boston to study overseas. When he received news of the fighting in America, he wrote to his half-brother.

### PRIMARY SOURCE

“Could anything be more fortunate than the time of my leaving Boston? Poor America. I hope for the best, but I fear the worst. Yet certain I am she will finally emerge from her present calamity and become a mighty empire.”

—John Singleton Copley, letter to Henry Pelham

Copley worried about his family as he traveled through Europe. Eventually, he found them safe in London. They had arrived with the first wave of Loyalist refugees. Copley painted this portrait after their reunion.

## Americans Divided

▼ **KEY QUESTION** In what ways was the Revolution like a civil war?

The issue of separating from Britain divided American society. Historians estimate that 20 to 30 percent of Americans were Loyalists, 40 to 45 percent were Patriots, and the rest were **neutral**, or not favoring any one side.



*The Copley Family*, by  
John Singleton Copley

# 1

## Reading for Understanding

### Key Ideas

#### BEFORE, YOU LEARNED

After the Revolutionary War broke out at Lexington and Concord, the United States declared independence from British rule.

#### NOW YOU WILL LEARN

Although the Continental Army had difficulty fighting in a divided America, the Patriots triumphed at Saratoga.

### Vocabulary

#### TERMS & NAMES

**George Washington** commander of the Continental Army

**John Burgoyne** (buh•GOIN) British army general in the Revolutionary War

**Joseph Brant** Mohawk chief allied with the British

**Benedict Arnold** U.S. army general in the Revolutionary War who later turned traitor

**Horatio Gates** U.S. army general in the Revolutionary War

**Battles of Saratoga** (sair•uh•TOH•guh) a series of conflicts in 1777 near Albany, New York

#### BACKGROUND VOCABULARY

**neutral** (NEW•truhl) not favoring any one side

**pacifist** (PAS•uh•fist) someone who is opposed to all war

**mercenary** (MUR•suh•NAIR•ee) a professional soldier hired to fight for a foreign country

**strategy** (STRA•tuh•jee) an overall plan of action

**rendezvous** (RAHN•day•voo) a meeting

#### REVIEW

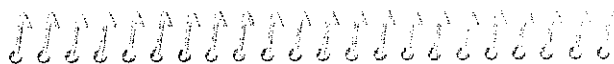
**guerrillas** (guh•RIL•uhz) small bands of fighters who weaken the enemy with surprise raids and hit-and-run attacks

### Reading Strategy

Re-create the diagram shown at right. As you read and respond to the **KEY QUESTIONS**, use the diagram to note important events and their effects. Add boxes or start a new diagram as needed.



See Skillbuilder Handbook, page R3.



#### CAUSES AND EFFECTS

##### CAUSE

*The Revolution divides Americans.*

##### EFFECT

##### EFFECT

*Some Native Americans join the British. Others support the Patriots.*



#### GRAPHIC ORGANIZERS

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# The Early Years of the War

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## Connecting History

### Dissent and Rebellion

The oldest English settlements were in New England and Virginia. They both had a tradition of dissent and rebellion. See Chapter 3, p. 72, Chapter 4, p. 104.


### ONLINE PRIMARY SOURCE

Hear the debate at the  
Research & Writing  
Center  
@ ClassZone.com

**Americans Choose Sides** The conflict divided Americans along social, religious, and ethnic lines. New England and Virginia had many Patriots. Loyalists were numerous in cities, New York State, and the South. Judges, councilors, and governors tended to be Loyalists. Many Loyalists were clergy or members of the Church of England. Some Quakers were active Loyalists, although many were **pacifists**—people opposed to all war. The Patriots drew support from Congregationalists, Presbyterians, and Baptists.

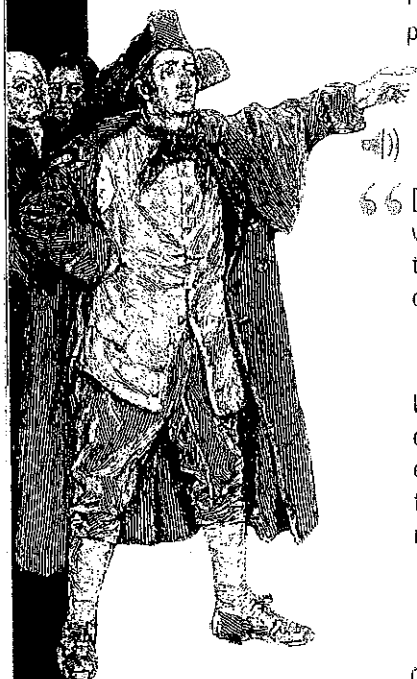
Most Southern states did not allow African Americans to enlist. They feared that armed African Americans might lead slave revolts. In contrast, the British offered enslaved persons their freedom if they joined British forces. Many slaves ran away to fight for the British. In the North, however, about 5,000 African Americans served in the Continental Army.

The American Revolution was the largest Indian war in American history. All Native American nations east of the Mississippi were caught up in the fighting. Some Native Americans, like the Mohawks, joined the British because they feared Americans would take Native American land. Others, who lived within areas settled by the colonists, sided with the Americans.

 **CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Explain how the Revolution caused divisions among the population.

## COMPARING Perspectives

Patriots and Loyalists (or "Tories") viewed the political situation from radically different perspectives. These were some of the arguments heard as debate gave way to bloodshed.



### 1) Patriots Speak

“ [Shall] a body of men in Great Britain, who . . . know nothing of us . . . invest themselves with a power to command our lives and properties . . . ?

—a lady from Philadelphia

If our Trade be taxed, why not our Lands, or Produce . . . in short, everything we possess? They tax us without having legal representation.

—Samuel Adams

### 2) Loyalists Speak

“ They call me a brainless Tory; but tell me, which is better—to be ruled by one tyrant three thousand miles away, or by three thousand tyrants not one mile away?

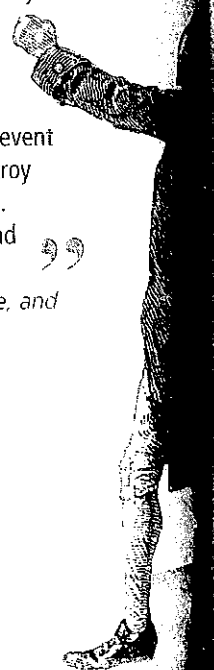
—Mather Byles

Whenever a . . . people . . . prevent the execution of laws, or destroy the property of individuals . . . there is an end of all order and government. . .

—Massachusetts Gazette, and Boston News-Letter

### CRITICAL THINKING

1. **Analyze Primary Sources** What were the Loyalists' greatest fears? What angered the Patriots most?
2. **Analyze Point of View** What would you have said to oppose each argument listed above?





## Preparing for War

**KEY QUESTION** Why did both America and Britain have trouble raising an army?

In June 1775, Congress named **George Washington** commander of the Continental Army. This army faced many problems.

**Problems of the Army** At first, this new national army was formed from state militias, made up of untrained and undisciplined volunteers. The militia were part-time, emergency fighters who were not prepared for the hardship of a long war.

Washington's main goal was to keep the Revolution alive. To do so, he needed to keep an army in the field, win some battles—no matter how small—and avoid a crushing defeat. He knew he could not win a major battle until he had a large, well-trained army.

At the start of the war, Congress asked men to enlist only for one year. When the soldiers' time was up, they went home. As a result, Washington's army never numbered more than 17,000 men. In the early years of the war, Washington always worried about losing men whose enlistments had expired.

Congress's inability to supply the army also frustrated Washington. The soldiers lacked blankets, shoes, food, and even guns and ammunition.

Fortunately, many women helped the army. George Washington's wife Martha and other wives followed their husbands to camp. The women cooked, did laundry, and nursed sick or wounded soldiers. Some women even disguised themselves to help fight. Twenty-two-year-old Deborah Sampson dressed as a man, enlisted, and fought in several battles. But many women who never ventured near a battlefield also helped the nation by managing farms and businesses while their husbands were away fighting. In the days when women had few civil rights and freedoms, the war brought them greater responsibilities.

**Britain Prepares** Many British viewed the Americans as disorganized, inexperienced rebels who would be easily defeated. In contrast to Washington's troops, the British army was experienced and professional. But the British military faced problems of its own. For personal and political reasons, many British officers refused to fight the Americans. Many British people were not enthusiastic about the war, so the king had trouble recruiting soldiers in



## History Makers

**George Washington 1732–1799**

When Washington saw the army he was asked to lead, he was shocked by its disunity. Soldiers shared a common enemy but had no sense of national unity. Officers from different regions refused to co-operate with each other. Troops would only obey officers from their own province. Angrily, Washington wrote, "Could I have foreseen what I have experienced, and am likely to experience, no consideration upon earth would have induced me to accept this command." But Washington was determined to hold the army together. His efforts helped create a model of unity for the nation.

### COMPARING Leaders

As you read through the chapter, look for other examples of Washington's leadership. Compare his leadership qualities to those of British generals described in this chapter.



**ONLINE BIOGRAPHY**

For more on the life of George Washington, go to the Research & Writing Center @ ClassZone.com

Britain. In addition, British soldiers signed up for life—which discouraged enlistment. Because of these problems, Britain had to hire mercenaries. A **mercenary** is a professional soldier hired to fight for a foreign country. The British mercenaries were called “Hessians” (HEH•shunz) because many came from the German region of Hesse.

**CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Describe why each side had trouble raising an army.

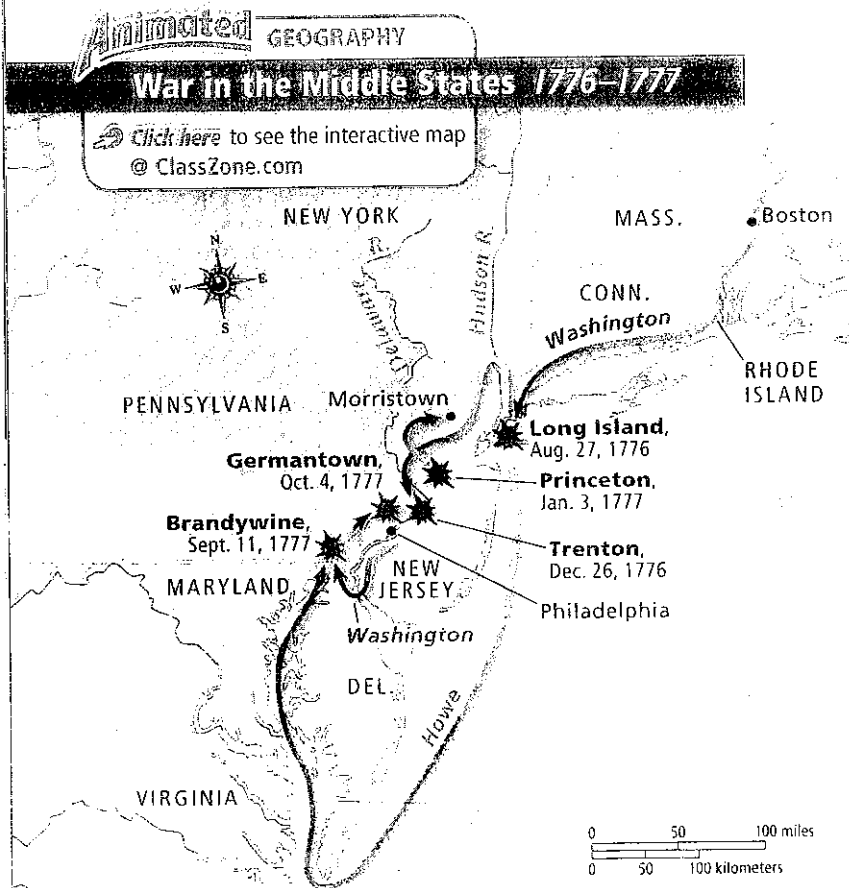
## War in the Middle States

**KEY QUESTION** How did Washington reverse a series of American defeats?

As Chapter 6 explains, Washington had forced the British to retreat from Boston in March 1776. He then hurried his army to New York City, where he expected the British to go next. One British goal was to occupy coastal cities so that their navy could land troops and supplies. From these bases on the coast, they could then launch their military campaigns.

**Patriot Retreat** Washington’s hunch was correct. In July 1776, Britain’s General William Howe arrived in New York with a large army. Then in August, more soldiers arrived, including about 9,000 Hessian mercenaries. At the Battle of Long Island the Americans were defeated.

For several months, the British and American armies fought to control New York. Finally, the British forced Washington to retreat through New Jersey. (See map below.) By December, when the American army crossed the Delaware River into Pennsylvania, it was in terrible condition.



### Connect Geography & History

#### READING A MILITARY MAP

Military maps show the movement of forces, where battles occurred, and who won. When reading a military map, use

- the scale to estimate distance
- the key to identify the winner of each battle
- the key to identify which colored arrow represents each army.

1. **Location** In which states did much of the fighting take place between 1776 and 1777?
2. **Identify Problems and Solutions** Why did the British take the sea route to Pennsylvania?



Political writer Thomas Paine witnessed the low spirits of the soldiers during the retreat. To urge Americans to keep fighting, Paine published the first in a series of pamphlets he called *The American Crisis*.

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

“These are the times that try men’s souls. The summer soldier and the sunshine patriot will, in this crisis, shrink from the service of their country; but he that stands it now, deserves the love and thanks of man and woman.”

—Thomas Paine, *The American Crisis*

Washington needed something to encourage his weary men. He also knew that he must attack the British quickly because most of his soldiers would leave once their enlistments ended on December 31.

**Victory at Trenton** Late on December 25, 1776, Washington’s troops rowed across the icy Delaware River to New Jersey. From there, they marched in bitter, early-morning cold to Trenton (see map on page 198) to surprise the Hessians, some of whom were sleeping after their Christmas celebration. The Americans captured or killed more than 900 Hessians and gained needed supplies. Washington’s army won another victory at Princeton eight days later before setting up winter camp at Morristown, New Jersey. These victories proved that the American general was better than many had thought. The American army began to attract new recruits.



A Hessian mercenary

▲ **SUMMARIZE** Explain how Washington reversed a series of defeats.

## Britain's Northern Strategy

▼ **KEY QUESTION** What was Britain’s northern strategy?

Meanwhile, the British were pursuing a **strategy**—an overall plan of action—to seize the Hudson River valley. They believed that New England was the source of the rebellion. If they controlled the Hudson River valley, they could cut off New England from the other states. The strategy called for three armies to meet at Albany, New York.

- General **John Burgoyne** would lead a force south from Canada.
- Lt Colonel Barry St. Leger would come down the Mohawk valley.
- General Howe would follow the Hudson north from New York City.

Burgoyne left Canada in June 1777 with an army of British, Hessians, and Iroquois. In July, they captured Fort Ticonderoga and continued south. (See map on page 200.)

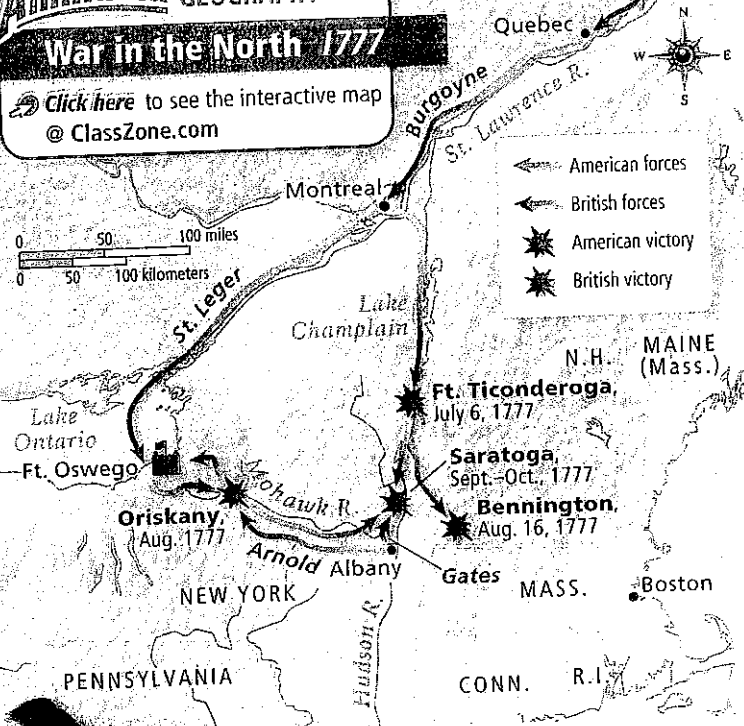
**Burgoyne’s Slow March** Called “Gentleman Johnny” by his soldiers, Burgoyne threw elaborate parties to celebrate victories. But his mood changed as he marched deeper into hostile territory. Not only was the countryside filled with rebel sympathizers, but the forests were swarming with militia from New York and New England. The militia cut down trees to slow Burgoyne’s progress. They burned crops and drove off cattle, leaving no food

## Animated GEOGRAPHY

### War in the North 1777

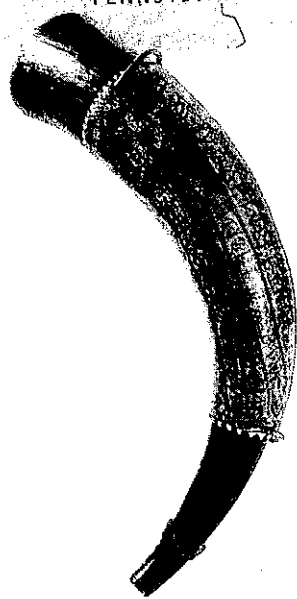
Click here to see the interactive map  
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0 50 100 miles  
0 50 100 kilometers



### Connect Geography & History

- 1. Movement** From which two cities did British forces begin their advance?
- 2. Make Inferences** Why was Albany strategically important?



**Powder Horn**  
Revolutionary-era soldiers used horns like this to carry gunpowder. Why was horn a good material in which to store gunpowder?

for the British. Burgoyne realized that the countryside was rising up against him. It was a lesson that other British generals would soon learn: they were not simply fighting an enemy army, they were fighting an entire people.

**Britain's Strategy Unravels** Burgoyne still looked forward to the rendezvous, or meeting, with St. Leger and Howe in Albany. But on August 4, Burgoyne received a message that Howe would not be coming north; instead, he had decided to try to capture Philadelphia—where the Continental Congress met. "Success be ever with you," wrote Howe. Yet Burgoyne needed Howe's soldiers, not his good wishes.

When Washington heard that Howe was heading south, he rushed to protect Philadelphia. However, in September 1777, Howe defeated Washington at Brandywine. (See map on page 198.) Howe then occupied Philadelphia. In October, Washington attacked Howe at Germantown. Again,

Washington lost the battle and retreated to winter camp.

As Burgoyne received Howe's message, St. Leger faced his own obstacle in reaching Albany. In the summer of 1777, he was trying to defeat a small American force at Fort Stanwix, near Oriskany in the Mohawk River valley of New York. St. Leger's forces included Iroquois led by Mohawk chief **Joseph Brant**, also called Thayendanegea (thi•ehno•DAH•nah•gee•ah). Brant had been promised that the British would protect Iroquois land.

During August 1777, American general **Benedict Arnold** led an army up the Mohawk River. He wanted to chase the British away from Fort Stanwix. Arnold sent a captured Loyalist and some Iroquois to spread the rumor that he had a large army. The trick worked, and the British retreated to Fort Oswego. Now no one was left to rendezvous with Burgoyne.

**MAIN IDEAS & DETAILS** Explain Britain's northern strategy—and why it failed.

### Saratoga: A Turning Point

**KEY QUESTION** Why has Saratoga been called a "turning point"?

Burgoyne's army was running out of supplies. A raiding party was sent into Vermont where it was defeated by New England militia at the Battle of Bennington on August 16, 1777.

**British Advance on Albany** Despite these setbacks, Burgoyne's army continued south. But an American force led by General **Horatio Gates** blocked their way on a ridge called Bemis Heights, near Saratoga, New York. There the Polish engineer Tadeusz Kosciuszko (TAH•deh•oosh KAWSH•choosh•kaw) had helped the Americans create fortifications, or built-up earthen walls.

Starting on September 19, Burgoyne attacked the fortifications. While Gates commanded the Americans on the ridge, Benedict Arnold led an attack on nearby Freeman's Farm. His men repeatedly charged the British, with Arnold galloping through the battlefield "like a madman." Despite heavy casualties, the British held their position, but on October 7, Burgoyne was forced to retreat.

**Burgoyne Surrenders** Burgoyne's army moved slowly through heavy rain to a former army camp at Saratoga. By the time they arrived, the men were exhausted. The Continental Army then surrounded Burgoyne's army and fired on it day and night until Burgoyne surrendered. The series of conflicts that led to this surrender is known as the **Battles of Saratoga**.

The victory at Saratoga was a turning point. It prevented the British from dividing the States and isolating New England. It also showed Europeans that the Americans might win their war for independence. Because of this, some European nations hostile to Great Britain decided to help.

▲ **CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Explain why Saratoga has been called "a turning point."

### Connect to the World

In London, after hearing the news of Burgoyne's surrender, William Pitt (Lord Chatham) warns Parliament: "You cannot conquer America."



## Section Assessment

### TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of

- George Washington
- Benedict Arnold
- John Burgoyne
- Horatio Gates
- Joseph Brant
- Battles of Saratoga

### USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Analyze Causes and Effects** Complete the diagram you started at the beginning of this section. Then create a diagram for each of the other main events in this section.

EFFECT

CAUSE

*The Revolution divides Americans.*

EFFECT

*Some Native Americans join the British. Others support the Patriots.*



### ONLINE QUIZ

For test practice, go to  
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### KEY IDEAS

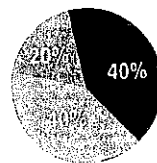
3. Why did the British want to control the Hudson River valley?
4. Why were the Battles of Saratoga important?

### CRITICAL THINKING

#### 5. Analyze Graphs

The graph shows how colonists were divided in 1776. Why is it surprising that the Patriots won?

- Patriots
- Loyalists
- Neutral




Source: Blackwell Encyclopedia of the American Revolution

6. **Connect Today** Use of mercenaries was banned by a United Nations agreement in 1989. Why do you think this was?
7. **Writing Letter** Write a one-page letter from Burgoyne to General Howe. Respond to Howe's letter in which he says he will head to Pennsylvania. Describe how this news affects your strategy.

# Animated HISTORY


## BATTLE TACTICS

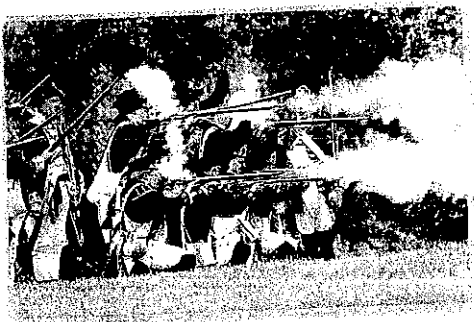
 [Click here](#) to enter a Revolutionary War battlefield  
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### Formal Battle

The majority of Revolutionary War battles followed a standard sequence. A battle would begin after the armies formed rows, or lines, facing each other. Americans used lines of both "regulars" (members of the Continental Army) and militia.




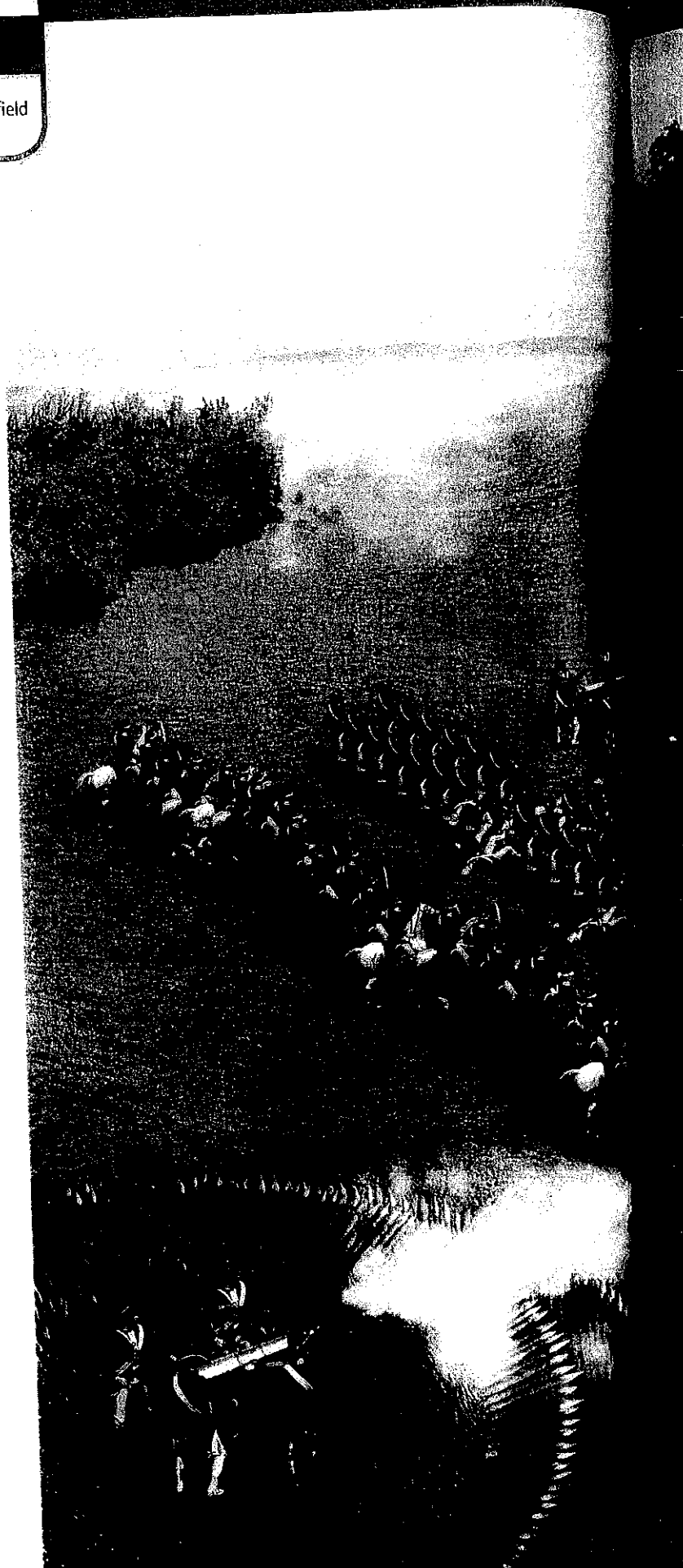
 [Click here](#) First, field artillery (cannon) blast the enemy's lines.



 [Click here](#) Next, front line soldiers advance to 50–100 yards of the enemy and fire muskets.



 [Click here](#) Finally, soldiers attack with bayonets (knives attached to the end of a gun), while cavalry (soldiers on horseback) charge.



## COMPARING

## Tactics

### Formal Battle and Guerrilla War

The militia's expert marksmanship played an important role in formal battles. However, the militia often practiced more informal guerrilla fighting. As part-time soldiers, they operated locally to disrupt supplies and communication and ambush enemy units. The militia ensured that the British could not depend on the countryside for supplies or support.



## Activity

### Take to the Battlefield!

- 1 Divide into two armies, one on each side of the room.
- 2 Each group then selects a "general," who divides them into these groups:
  - artillery
  - infantry (front & second lines)
  - cavalry
- 3 The two "generals" command their "troops" to move forward as they would in a formal battle.